

Saskatchewan
Rural
Telephone
Companies
Association

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Minutes of
1951 Convention

The annual convention of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Telephones was held in the Club 400 in Saskatoon on July 9th, 1951. Mr. Randall, president, opened the meeting at 11 a.m.

Moved by Greaves - Kampmann, that the minutes of the 1950 convention be read over the lunch hour, and, if necessary, be discussed later. Carried.

In his opening remarks the president stated to the new delegates, that this association was started a long time ago, and that it had undergone many changes and a lot of difficulties. He also gave a brief summary re the purposes of this convention. Mr. Randall said if anything should come up in the meeting that affects their people, the chairman would proceed to Regina, or nominate someone to take these difficulties to the Department.

Mr. Cavanagh, Supt. of Rurals, stated that he was disappointed that director Streeton was unable to attend. He also stated he was disappointed in the rural subscriptions, although subscribers totalled 57,289 with an increase of 656 over last year. On the whole a vast improvement was made.

The chairman asked for questions, and a delegate from Cudworth inquired why a person working on a yearly salary should receive minimum wages?

A. He must receive a minimum wage since he comes under the Minimum Wage Act.

Q. Is there a minimum wage for a secretary.

A. Yes, if he or she is under the Minimum Wage Act.

Q. Do you pay for the fees of a telephone in a teacherage?

A. Yes, if the Telephone Company does not do so, then the board of trustees must.

Q. What are the regular rural rates for rural subscribers?

A. The lowest was \$7.00 and the highest \$27.00, averaging about \$16.00 (1950 figures). However, it seems to be somewhat higher for 1951. Basis 24 hours daily service.

Q. What are the rates for the different styled telephones?

A. The rates are the same as your Department is paying. For example: the church pays \$25.00 and business concerns pay \$34.00.

The matter of hauling poles was a troublesome one, said the president. Since existing conditions prevented farmers from hauling

poles and telephone equipment unless they hold a commercial license.

Moved by Manitou Lake, that we adjourn till 1.30 p.m. Carried.

After lunch the 1950 minutes were adopted as read on motion of Star City -- Manitou Lake. Carried.

The secretary read the financial statement for the past year. G. G. Patrick & Co., Chartered Accountants. Period from July 9, 1950, to July 2, 1951.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT Receipts

Membership fees	\$ 492.35
Bond Interest75
Refund: director's expense	\$3.65
Sale of Supplies	2.60
	6.25
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	\$ 499.35
Bank Balance July 9, 1950	\$608.02
Victory Bond	50.00
	658.02
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	\$1157.37

Payments

Directors Travelling Expenses	\$ 158.80
Printing, postage and stationery	209.36
Secretary's salary: —	
(1) Bal. 1949-1950 25.00	
(2) 1950-1951 100.00	125.00
Stenographer, 1950 convention	7.50
Convention expenses 1950	5.00
Exchange	6.65
Long Distance Calls	3.87
Refund on deposit	5.00
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	\$ 521.18
Bank bal. July 2, 1951	586.19
Victory Bond	50.00
	636.19
	<hr/>
	\$1157.37

Moved by Briarlea and Dunleath Companies, that the financial statement be accepted and adopted. Carried.

Mayor Mills entered and was introduced to the assembly by the chairman. His Worship spoke briefly. He thanked all for having been invited, and expressed the hope that he might have the opportunity some time again of being present.

After Mayor Mills' departure, Mr. Cavanagh, Supt. of Rurals, read letters which he had received from The Workmen's Compensation

Board, regarding the record of accidents in the province. Mr. Cavanagh stated his amazement at the number of accidents, and went on to describe several and how they could be avoided. Various questions regarding telephone service were then discussed.

The president then called upon Mr. Purdy, Supt. of the Commercial Branch. Mr. Purdy said he was glad to be able to attend in order to gather information and give assistance.

Mr. S. B. Medhurst, district superintendent in Saskatoon was introduced, and expressed his appreciation of having been invited and expressed his desire to help the delegates in every way possible at anytime.

The chairman announced that resolutions were to be handed to the resolutions committee, which consisted of Messrs. Fritshaw, Greaves and Furneaux. That delegates were now free to ask questions and address them to the various speakers or officials.

Q: MEOTA:—"If there was any hope of going back to the old system of telephone service, where less time was wasted?"

A:—We are endeavoring to get up facilities which will reduce time; and furthermore, we are going forward; not backward. Asquith stated that "toll centering" was a great help and concurred with Mr. Medhurst that it was to the advantage of all subscribers. Mr. Purdy then gave figures and elaborated on Mr. Medhurst's remarks, stating that everything was being done to insure faster telephone service.

Q: MORSE:—"Can municipalities remove dirt from the telephone poles?"

A:—No, your telephone company has a right on the road and if damages occur the municipality must pay for them. No permission is necessary to construct telephone lines as long as you are within 1½ feet from the inside of the pole".

Mr. Randall then read a letter sent by a municipality to a telephone company forbidding either telephone companies or Power Commission the right to construct lines on road allowance; and that such construction must be 300 feet back in the fields. Mr. Cavanagh replied that no municipality has any power or right to dictate to telephone companies. That under the Rural Telephone Act telephone companies had the same right on the road allowance as municipalities, and did not need their consent.

Q: GOOD LUCK:—"What do we do in case we run into a section line?"

A:—You cannot go beyond a section line,

unless you get permission from the owners. This would not apply to "lead-ins". The delegate from Dunleath put in a complaint that his district was promised two circuits; but as yet they have not been installed. Mr. Cavanagh assured the delegate that he would take up the matter and advise the telephone company what they should do.

Q: VISCOUNT & EDAM:—"Is it possible to have a cable inspected?"

A:—"We have inspectors whom we send out to inspect cables. The only expense is if the inspectors do unnecessary driving".

Q: DUNLEATH:—"What is the best cable to use underground?"

A:—"Specifications for underground cables require one pair of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch pipes and style B wire".

Q:—"How far above telephone wires does the power line have to be?"

A:—"It depends on the amount of power on the line".

Q:—"Is it legal to change the number of lines in our district?"

A:—"It is legal to do so".

Q: PERDUE:—"Could the shareholders only in this case rule?"

A:—"If they are all in favor, yes, and if the board of directors make the decision."

Mr. Huber of The Government Insurance office was introduced by the president. Mr. Huber expressed his thanks for being allowed a few minutes to speak on fidelity bonds. These are a contract between the secretary-treasurer with the bonding company. A \$1000.00 fidelity bond costs \$7.50 for three years. However, certain companies could obtain a smaller bond at a somewhat smaller premium. In conclusion he expressed the hope that delegates and companies write for more information.

A short question period re the above followed. A Punnichy delegate asked if "a secretary-treasurer could be bonded for the amount of money he was responsible for in case of heavy construction?"

A:—"The premium payable depends on the amount of the bond. This is up to the directors of the company to decide".

Q:—"If the old secretary-treasurer leaves his position, is the new successor covered by the previous bond?"

A:—"Yes; or the old one may be terminated, and a new one applied for?"

Q: CUT KNIFE:—"Is it necessary to check on your secretary-treasurer to see if he is doing the books correctly?"

A:—"In the bond it does not state that fact; but your directors should endeavor to know all facts at all times".

Q:—"From the previous questions this one crept up: could the financial statement not be read at every meeting. Therefore, that being a check?"

A:—"Yes, you should have a financial statement read at every meeting."

Q: ASQUITH:—"Why were telephone rates raised \$2.00; and where does the extra expense come in?"

A:—"It was raised to help agents and bring about exchanges; but out of the \$2.00 you received 75 cents; therefore, it is not an increase in rates".

Q: STRASBOURG:—"Are you using all this extra revenue?"

A:—Yes, all this revenue is used.

Q: PERDUE:—"What is the life of a switchboard?"

A:—"That depends how it is used and its maintenance.

The president declared time for nominations. That anyone not present could be nominated. Mr. Cavanagh acted as chairman for the election of president. Moved by Cudworth and Young companies that Mr. Randall be resident. No further nominations. The acting chairman declared Mr. Randall re-elected. In reassuming the chair Mr. Randall thanked all for their trust and confidence.

Moved by Briarlea-Merrill, that Mr. Fritshaw be vice-president.

No further nominations. Mr. Fritshaw was declared re-elected.

Boaard of directors:

Thirteen were nominated. The following were declared elected:

W.G. Streeton, sr. - -	Plunkett, Sask.
H.B. Polkinghorne - -	Marsden, Sask.
Theodore Packer - - - -	Eston, Sask.
L. Flowers - - - -	Punnichy, Sask.
G. Furneaux - - - -	Nipawin, Sask.
M. Scramstad - - - -	Hendon, Sask.
J. Larson - - - - -	Young, Sask.
H.F. Foston - - - - -	Cavalier, Sask.
F.S. Anderson - - - - -	Briarlea, Sask.

The chairman of the resolutions committee then read and moved the following resolutions:

1.—That the Telephone Act be amended to make it an offense for any person to obstruct the maintenance of the service by piling stones or other obstruction within 10 feet of the base of any pole or guy wires. Any such offense on conviction shall be liable to a fine. Carried.

2—That notice be given that the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Telephones' constitution be amended at the 1952 convention to permit any nomination for members of the executive to be valid, if such nominee is a member of a rural telephone board or any secretary-treasurer, and the nomination is made in writing, signed by both the president of the company and the nominee and delivered to the association's secretary-treasurer before the time appointed for such nominations at the annual convention. TABLED.

3—Whereas the rural telephone companies in the province of Saskatchewan are collecting all long distance accounts without remuneration; and as this constitutes a greater portion of the work involved by the secretaries and in the ASSINIBOIA RURAL alone there are over 5000 entries a year put through recording these accounts; be it resolved that a commission of 10% be paid to all companies collecting and remitting long distance accounts through the Department of Telephones. LOST.

4—That we recommend that the company add a fee to each L.D. toll. CARRIED.

5—Resolved that a complaint be sent to the Dept. of Telephones, Regina, regarding the new system of operating. Subscribers feel that long distance calls are being delayed longer than under the old system, causing them definite inconvenience in their business operations. TABLED.

6—Resolved that we request The Workmen's Compensation Act be extended to cover accident liability in the case of directors or secretaries while they are out on business for the company.

NOTA BENE: No vote taken as this is already in force.

7—Resolved that working hours on legal holidays and Sundays in rural exchanges be standarized throughout the province; that if hours could not be standarized each company to have its schedule of hours posted in the directory. LOST.

8—Whereas we are not getting satisfactory service from the Wadena Central office; and whereas we feel that we have submitted substantial evidence to the Dept. of Telephones of the deplorable conditions that existed at the Wadena Agency; and whereas, we have repeatedly requested the Dept. of Telephones to have this service improved, but without results; Be it resolved that the Dept. of Telephones take immediate action to place the Wadena Central office under new management. The Wadena

Rural Telephone Company respectively solicit the support of this convention to sustain this resolution. **LOST.**

9—That a more advanced course for troublemen be held if sufficient number of applicants. **LOST.**

10—That whereas oil production companies have made egress far beyond their normal rights; and whereas additional clearance has to be provided to prevent constant damage to a line; Therefore be it resolved that we request the Dept. of Natural Resources to make it a condition of permit that the oil companies pay for such additional clearance before a well is put on production. **CARRIED.**

11—Resolved that the Rural Telephone Act respecting Special Levies and debenture levies be changed to provide that the taxable area for a rural telephone company be defined or established and that all lands within the outer boundaries of such area be made liable for taxation for that company. **LOST.**

Q. BRIARLEA: What is the best way to clear lines for long distance calls?

A:—"The best way is to call your operator and explain the situation to her or him".

Q:—"Has the Dep't of Telephones the right to go beyond the limits of a town or a rural line and take in subscribers already in a town or in a rural?"

A:—"No, they have not that right, but it sometimes happens".

Q:—"Hope Lodge Telephone Co. of Rosthern leads right up to 1½ miles from the town of Waldheim. Those having the phone within 3 or 4 miles of Waldheim do their shopping in Waldheim, and if they want to phone Waldheim they have to pay toll charges. How can this be arranged that those close to Waldheim could have a Waldheim phone?"

A:—"We recommend that the tolls be released, but they must go to the company serving them in order to have them released".

Convention place for 1952: A number of cities and towns were suggested. The results of the vote was in favor of Saskatoon. Definite date was left with the executive.

No further business, it was moved by Eston-Fern Glen that this meeting adjourn.

President
F.RANDALL,
Leacross, Sask.

Sec.-Treas.
J.M. STROEDER,
Pilger, Sask.